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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Debate on Women's Rights

"Women of Europe" went to press just a few days before the European Parliament debated the report drawn up by the ad hoc committee on women's rights. For technical reasons, we were unable to delay publication, but it goes without saying that we shall be discussing the parliamentary debate at length in our next issue.

During one of its last meetings in Brussels at the end of January, the ad hoc committee on women's rights adopted the report drafted by Ms Maij-Weggen in the form in which it is to be presented to European Parliament and with its final title: "Report on the position of women in the European Community" (reference: Document 1-829/80-I). The report was adopted in the presence of Simone Veil, the president of European Parliament, who pointed out how important the proposals are for society as a whole and in determining the shape of tomorrow's society.

The resolution consists of a number of chapters, setting out proposals relating to each paragraph whose aim is to define and improve the position of women. Having placed the problems faced by women today in perspective against the background of the current economic situation, the main feature of which is higher unemployment, the report calls for the following improvements:

measures so far taken by the European Community concerning the economic and legal equality of women: the directives should be applied in practice, in particular by making greater efforts to publicize information;

women's economic and social participation in the world of work: the resolution calls for shorter working hours for all, although it warns against the risk that part-time employment and flexible may in the end worsen discrimination against women. The ad hoc committee also points out that women need help in adapting to the changes brought about by new technology and in taking a full part in every field of public life. Here again, emphasis is on the need for information and training.

women working in smaller and family concerns: the specific problems faced by these women are reviewed, with the report looking forward to a "European statute" that would fill the legal and social gaps in these women's occupational status. Discussing women working in the agricultural sector, the ad hoc committee recommends an EEC directive, with the aim of financing services providing training to women working on the land and a chance to take a fuller part in the life of society.

women in developing nations: stress is placed on health care and literacy, with the report pleading for the abolition of cruel customs such as sexual mutilation;

Health care: the question of abortion is tackled in this chapter. While the ad hoc committee regrets the rise in the number of abortions as a means of contraception, it points out the problems that have arisen as a result of the widely differing laws on the subject in individual European Community member states.

procurement of persons for immoral purposes: the committee would like the European Commission to launch an investigation into the practice so that ways can be found of harmonizing legislation against it in our Member States.

Having reached the end of its work, the chairman of the ad hoc committee expressed pleasure at the practical proposals for real improvements in the position of Women in Europe that had been made.

Child prostitution

More detailed information is emerging on allegations that six- to twelve-year-old girls are the victims of a scandalous prostitution network in refugee camps in Southeast Asia.

"In Kampuchian camps on the Cambodian frontier there are two orphanages. One houses 220 boys, while the other is meant to be for girls. Only one girl could be found when people came to investigate. Where are those little girls?" The agonizing question was raised by Yvette Fullet, a French Member of European Parliament.

It has been stated that the girls who have disappeared from the camps are to be found in brothels, in particular in Thailand and Singapore.

European Parliament has already voted on a resolution on the subject, but Yvette Fullet is not satisfied, seeing the action as too timid and too ineffective.

The European Committee has committed itself to the responsibility, she believes. "The EEC foreign ministers and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations made a joint declaration in Brussels on 20-21 November 1978, and agreed that the two organizations should cooperate to "serve the interests of the peoples through development of prosperity, social justice and respect for human rights".

PARLIAMENT IN PLENARY SESSION

The main event in the December session of European Parliament, which was held in Luxembourg, was the second reading of the 1981 budget. One of the rapporteurs was Luciana Castellina (Italy, PDUP), speaking on behalf of the Commission on Development and Cooperation, who deplored the Council's attitude to development aid, especially in the fight against hunger.

Another feature of the session was Colette Flesch's review, of the presidency to Parliament as President of the Council of Ministers, which she had become in her capacity as Luxembourg Foreign Minister. It was the first time a woman has replied to questions in Parliament from a seat on the Council (and Colette Flesch had for long been one of the most highly respected and active members of Parliament itself). One of the questions which she answered was raised by Ien van den Heuvel (Neth., Socialist) on the workings of the European institutions and the conflict in the Middle East.

During the session, Parliament also had to reach its verdict on a report on the exposure of workers to lead pollution. The report had been sent back to the Environment Committee after it was first debated in October, when some of the MEPs, including Yvette Roudy (France, Socialist), had pointed out that the proposed directive might be interpreted in a way that would discriminate against women.

The membership of the new European Commission had been made known and, at the time of this session, Yvette Roudy, the chairman of the ad hoc committee on women's rights, complained that the Commission still had no women members, so that it would continue to act "like a club for men only, depriving itself of the vital and complementary approach to the affairs of life that women might have been able to contribute". Although the matter was not put to a vote in plenary session, many MEPs, both men and women, joined in the protest.

Simone Veil in Bremen

Addressing the Parliament in Bremen, Simone Veil, the President of European Parliament, declared that the obstacle to the development of a united Europe was not Community red tape in Brussels but national protectionism. Each country has its own national measures and this is why attempts to formulate common regulations founder - as in the case of the use of hormones to fatten calves.

Simone Veil also spoke of her hopes that a growing number of women would play the role it is natural for them to assume in political, economic and social life. "We do not mean that they should just represent one half of the voters who go to the poll; the proportion of women in European Parliament is relatively high, and the women members will make every effort to influence member states with a view to improving women's lot".

The first session of European Parliament in 1981 opened in Strasbourg with a welcome to the 24 new Greek members now that Greece has joined the EEC. President Simone Veil made the speech of welcome to the Greek delegation, which has no woman member. A new body of Greek representatives is to be elected in a few months' time and the voters will perhaps fill this gap.

After a prolonged debate on the Community's information policy, Parliament passed a motion calling for more funds and a strengthening of European Commission staff to make women more aware of Community policies. Parliament feels that the section responsible should have the "right to appear" in the Directorate-General for Information directory.

In the traditional address by new Council Presidents, Dutch Foreign Minister Dr C.A. van der Klaauw described the Council's programme, sparking off a debate in which the speakers included Ien van den Heuvel (Neth., speaking for the Socialist group), Luciana Castellina (Italy, PDUP) and Hanna Walz (Germany, Christian Democrat).

An important debate on pollution of the sea by hydrocarbons and the prevention of disasters was based on two reports, one tabled by Johanna Maij-Weggen (Neth., PPE) and the other by Antoinette Spaak (Belgium, FDF). The rapporteurs and other MEPs speaking in the debate called for more stringent controls and the creation of a Community information scheme.

Hanna Walz was also the rapporteur on an inevitably controversial subject: decentralized energy production, one of the chief aims being to adopt "soft energy technology". While she declared herself in favour of soft energy she pointed out the need to maintain the other forms. Suzanne Dekker (Neth., Democratie 66) argued that soft energy sources might be used as a substitute for the "traditional" sources altogether; the opposite view was expressed by Giselle Charzat (France, Socialist). At a press conference outside the Parliamentary session following the visit by the Mayor of Polgoff to Strasbourg, reservations as to the nuclear option were expressed by other MEPs, including the Belgian and German Socialists Anne-Marie Lizin and Beate Weber, who stressed the need to inform and consult the local communities.

On the political level, Parliament was unable to vote on a motion tabled by Ien van den Heuvel on the violation of human rights in Uruguay because the quorum had not been reached. Even so, a majority of MEPs heard at least part of Ms van den Heuvel's strong protest directly criticizing the regime in Uruguay. Speaking for the Christian Democrats, their vice-chairman Maria Luisa Cassanmagnago-Cerretti called for stringent controls over the trade agreement between the EEC and Uruguay and the inclusion of a measure that would monitor the sale of arms to that country.

Parliament had been unable to include a debate on the situation in Salvador in its agenda, as also requested by Paola Gaiotti de Biase (Italy, Christian Democrat), who would have liked the Christian forces to send out a "signal" to USA as in Salvador Christians, among others, are the victims of violence.

FACTS, INSTITUTIONS AND LAWS

The Catholic Church

The papal council for laymen has set up a working group on "woman in society and in the Church" chaired by a Frenchwoman, Lucienne Sallé - who was also present at the Copenhagen conference to represent the papal council.

In a preparatory document for the Copenhagen conference setting out its thoughts, the papal council concluded that "recognition and promotion of women's status will enrich the whole of humanity; men and women are capable of contributing their specific wealth and dynamic energy to building a world that will be not flat and uniform but harmonious and united, in accordance with our Creator's grand design" (in the words of Pope Paul VI to the Committee for International Women's Year, 1975).

Useful address: Consiglio Pontificale per i Laici
00120 Città del Vaticano, Italy

B E L G I U M

Congratulations to...

... Ms Flament-Durand, the first woman to have been elected to the Royal Academy of Medicine;

... Ms Cécile Draps, a member of the Bar in Liège, the first woman to have been called to the bar in the Higher Court of Appeal.

A new ministerial committee

Set up in September 1980, Belgium's new ministerial committee for women's status held its first meeting, chaired by the Premier, Mr Wilfried Martens, at the end of January 1981.

At the end of the meeting, the committee asked the Minister for Justice to draw up a bill that would improve existing legislation on the nationality of married women and their children. As advised by the consultative committee on the condition of women, the new law will be in consonance with the principle laid down by UNO that nationality should not be altered by marriage.

Three ministries (Employment, Social Security and Public Health) will be reviewing the whole system of protection for women at the time of motherhood. It has already been agreed that maternity leave may in future be prolonged if the infant has to remain in hospital.

The ministerial committee also agreed to a proposed royal decree which will extend the right to long leave for family reasons to men, a concession previously granted to women members of the civil service only.

Useful address: Comité ministériel pour le Statut de la femme
Cabinet du Premier ministre
6 Rue de la Loi
1000 Brussels

Congratulations to ...

Jeane Kirkpatrick, on her appointment as United States Ambassador to the United Nations. This post, which has never been held by a woman, is equivalent to ministerial rank. Jeane Kirkpatrick was the first woman appointed to senior office by Ronald Reagan on becoming President.

Married and with three children, Jeane Kirkpatrick has written many books, one of which is a study in depth of the work of 48 stateswomen, under the title of "Political Women" (published by Basic Books, New York, 1974).

Gro Harlem Brundtland, the new Prime Minister of Norway and - at the age of 41 - the youngest head of government in Western Europe. A doctor by training, Gro Harlem Brundtland was Minister for the Environment, deputy secretary general of the Norwegian Labour Party and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Norwegian Parliament, the Storting.

A mother of four and the wife of a well known member of the Conservative Party, Gro Harlem Brundtland has a well established reputation as a militant feminist as a result of her efforts to liberalize abortion.

D E N M A R K

Women at work

Women and the labour market

Women have now made an indelible mark on the labour market. The proportion of women in paid employment has risen sharply over the past twenty years: from approximately 30% in 1960 to 44% today. Although 44 out of every 100 people at work are women, they still tend to be employed in specific jobs. The labour market is compartmentalized. There is one market for men, another for women. Women usually find employment in the service sector or do the same type of work that they used to be doing in their own homes. Part-time work is virtually the sole province of women. Almost 50% of women with a job work part-time.

Unemployment among young women

The unemployment rate among young people is high. In Denmark, nearly 60,000 boys and girls under 25 are jobless, and a substantial majority of those are girls. The problem is all the greater for girls, for it is even harder for them to find work again or go back to training after a period of unemployment than for boys. An additional factor is that the inadequacy of girls' training makes it more likely that they will become unemployed. Since young women without a job are more likely to have children than women established in paid employment, they find it even more difficult to break out of the vicious circle, for example by taking a training course. It is a problem that does not arise to the same extent with men.

Efforts being made by the Danish National Women's Council

With this in mind, the Danske Kvinders Nationalraad called on the Ministry for Education in February 1980 to release funds for the "women in employment" project. Its aim is to improve the employment position of women, especially young women. The National Council hopes to find new ways of solving the problems of unemployment by urging all its member associations to keep a close watch on female unemployment trends at local levels and to influence those trends. One of the suggested measures is to bring about a change in attitudes, to combat prejudice in the range of jobs being offered to women and their potential in the world of work.

In 1980, the Danish Ministry for Education made a grant of 248,000 kroner to the project, increased to 300,000 kroner in 1981 to make it possible to continue with the work that had begun.

Progress with the project

In practical terms, the "women in employment" project is directed towards three types of action:

1. Assessing the position with regard to women's employment

Information is gathered on the extent of female unemployment and on the measures being taken to expand work that is particularly well suited to women. At the same time, an index is being drawn up of the publications, articles, reports and suggestions that should be consulted by all women concerned with the problems of unemployment.

2. Creation of action committees throughout the country

These committees will keep themselves informed of developments at local level and also act as pressure groups in dealings with regional and local authorities. New ideas will be put into practice only if there is active cooperation between local women's movements, local authorities and young unemployed women in each region.

3. Implementation of local-scale efforts to assist young women

As things now stand, most employment projects are designed for young men. The efforts of the action committees are directed towards persuading the authorities to implement measures desired more specifically for girls.

Action on employment and ideas

Two women have been seconded from the Danish National Women's Council secretariat to deal with the day-to-day tasks that arise in connection with the project: Pernille Utzon-Frank and Elsebeth Jensen.

They compile information and documentary evidence on the level of unemployment and the employment situation, as well as on ventures that have already been launched. In fact only a few measures have as yet reached the practical stage, but what has been done is enlightening and is generating new ideas for further effort.

The efforts already made to promote women's employment include:

- courses for young jobless women in one of Denmark's regions;
- the provision of help to girls under 25 whose employment situation is problematical to obtain work;
- two projects that involve converting the Grevinde Danner Foundation and fitting it out as a women's centre; as a special concession, the law on equal status for men and women was waived for these projects and it was possible to employ women only.

Pernille Utzon-Frank and Elsebeth Jensen also arrange meetings all over Denmark, with the help of the local women's movements. The main aim is to set up local action committees, making suggestions and giving specific information on the local organisms to which ideas and proposals can be put forward. There are in fact a few public bodies one of whose duties it is to advise young people and take steps to create employment, but only a few women, other than the experts, know or think about appealing to these bodies. This is the reason why it is so important to bring their existence and their role to the attention of the general public.

What are these bodies? Application may be made, for example, to:

- schools, where there are usually one or more teachers with special career guidance duties who will help young people to find the training they need or a job;
- employment agencies with career guidance advisers on their staff, sometimes youth advisers as well. During the coming year, counsellors will also be recruited to work for equality of status for men and women on the labour market;
- local authorities, which have specialists in employment and social services who are specifically concerned with the young unemployed;
- independent local authorities, whose secretariats for employment will implement special measures to help young unemployed people;
- the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education, which are authorized to conduct information campaigns and help to implement employment projects with the assistance of the regional and local authorities;
- the National Council of Danish Women, which has launched the "women in employment" project.

In other words, the government and local authority budgets already have fairly substantial funds to combat youth unemployment.

Some of the project aims are to forward information, formulate ideas and exercise pressure to ensure that the funds are in fact allocated to counteracting unemployment among young women, whose position is by far the most worrying aspect of youth unemployment.

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalraad
Niels Hemmingsengade 8
1153 Copenhagen

F R A N C E

Marguerite Yourcenar

The first women to be elected to the French Academy, Marguerite Yourcenar was stylish enough - or cruel enough - not to say a word of reproach to her new colleagues for the tradition that had always kept women out of this eminent body. In her speech, she described herself as accompanied "by an invisible troop of women who should perhaps have received this honour much earlier than me; I am tempted to draw back to let their shades enter first".

Having found excuses for the Academy which "has simply abided by custom", Marguerite Yourcenar let her audience off ("Gentlemen, let us leave this aside") and enchanted it with her eulogy of Roger Caillois whose seat she was to occupy from now on.

Useful address: Académie française
Quai Conti
75000 Paris

Equality at work

A bill on equality between men and women at work has been tabled in French Parliament. Its objective is three-fold:

- to apply the principle of equality to the whole of labour law;
- to make the machinery for applying that law more effective;
- to foster a change in attitudes.

If it is passed, the bill will introduce measures on earnings, recruitment and termination of contracts of employment, as well as on training, promotion and working conditions as a whole. Exceptions to the principle of equality will be made only where this is essential because of the nature of the work. It will no longer be possible to use the very general criterion of having "legitimate reasons", as before. As a transitional measure, efforts in favour of one sex or the other will be authorized if they are designed to promote true equality in practice.

The bill enables union representatives in a factory or company to refer the cases of members of their union to the courts without having to produce a power of attorney from the person concerned, provided that he does not object. The two sides of industry will be asked to revise collective agreements and internal rules within five years if they discriminate against women.

In companies employing more than 300, an annual report will have to be drawn up on the position, training and working conditions of men and women, on a comparative basis. The media used to publicize job vacancies will have to include a reminder on the principle that men and women are equal at work.

Useful address: Ministère du Travail et de la Participation
Secrétariat d'Etat de l'Emploi féminin
25 Avenue Charles Floquet
75007 Paris

Committee for women's employment: a review

The latest general report issued by the Comité du travail féminin (which can be obtained on request) is of special interest, as it is a yardstick of political action as it is directed for or against women in each of its stages, which are sometimes in conflict. The report is a kind of balance sheet, although it stands back to look at things in perspective.

One of the observations made by the committee, for instance, is the extent to which French law is influenced by contradictory schools of thought, inherited from the past. There are clear signs of hesitation in the law when it has to formulate principles. Each of three general bodies of opinion have their adherents: that women should be protected by special measures, even if this means excluding them from certain occupations; that every form of protection should be extended to cover all workers, whatever their sex; and that transitional legislation should be introduced to counteract inequality, along the lines of the "positive discrimination" envisaged by the European Community.

Faced with a choice between these alternatives, the committee for women's employment feels that the special protective measures should be restricted to maternity, that attempts should be made gradually to eliminate occupational risks for all workers, regardless of sex, and that any "positive discrimination" should be confined to the field of training.

Useful address: Comité du travail féminin
1 Place Fontenoy
75700 Paris

Congratulations to ...

... Nicole Pradain, administrative secretary to the senior council of magistrates, who has been appointed to be the equivalent of a director of public prosecutions at the Roim court of appeal, the first woman to occupy such high office in the legal hierarchy.

The Baccalaureate

In the 1980 baccalaureate examinations, taken at the same age as A-levels in England, girls achieved 92,000 passes, boys 66,300.

Mother's pension

Mothers of three or more children will from now on be members of the pension insurance scheme free of charge provided that they have not worked in paid employment and that their resources are low enough to have already entitled them to the "family supplement".

Useful address: Ministère de la Condition féminine
39 Quai André Citroën
75015 Paris

Helping women to cope on their own

In France there are five million women on their own - divorced, widowed and unmarried. To help them to cope and not feel they are rejected by society, an information campaign has been planned by the Ministry for Women's Status.

Their attention has been drawn to about fifty legal measures designed for their benefit, ranging from assistance with employment to advances against alimony, from adoption to special allowances for single parents.

Useful addresses: Ministère de la Condition féminine

39-43 Quai André Citroën
75739 Paris Cedex 15

Fédération des associations de veuves chefs de famille
28 Place Saint-Georges
75442 Paris Cedex 09

Association pour la protection de la femme seule
9 Rue de l'Arc de Triomphe
75017 Paris

Association des centres d'accueil de femmes seules
6 Avenue du Général Balfourier
75016 Paris

Femme seule
16 Rue Jules Bourdais
75017 Paris

Syndicat national des femmes chefs de famille
6 Avenue Béatrix
06100 Nice

Association nationale des mères célibataires
135 Boulevard de Sébastopol
75002 Paris

G E R M A N Y

Divorce and prejudice

The Federal supreme court, the Bundesverfassungsgericht, has asked the German Federal Parliament to review the law on divorce. Under the law passed by the Bundestag, five years' separation is enough for a divorce to be granted even if the other party opposes it.

The supreme court accepted a petition from an elderly woman who did not wish to be divorced, recognizing that extremely serious prejudice might be caused to a spouse in the event of divorce. The Bundestag must now amend the law as it stands to take that prejudice into account. The law must contain a proviso that divorce will not be granted automatically in such cases.

Useful address: Bundesverfassungsgericht
Pressestelle
7500 Karlsruhe

Congratulations,

... Lieselotte Funcke, vice chairman of the German Liberal Party, FDP, and vice president of the Bundestag (Federal Parliament), who has been given responsibility within the Federal Government for questions relating to foreign nationals (Ausländerbeauftragte der Deutschen Bundesregierung). Lieselotte Funcke has already been responsible for economic affairs within the Regional Government of North Rhineland-Westphalia.

... Hildegard Bartels, the first woman to have become head of a central civil service department, in this case the Federal statistical agency (Statistische Bundesamt), who has now been appointed chairman of the committee for equal opportunities in the civil service (Kommission für personelle Chancengleichheit).

... Giesela Ellen Wolf, who will be taking over from Marlies Kutsch as the delegate for women's status to the Federal ministry for the family, youth and health. Marlies Kutsch, who reaches the age of retirement in March, has stated - in a review of her work there - that an institution such as the Arbeitstab Frauenpolitik (the delegation for women's status) is of vital importance in the Federal Government.

Useful addresses: Marlies Kutsch

c/o Bundesministerium für Familie, Jugend und Gesundheit
Kennedyallee
53 Bonn 1

Helga Wex (MdB)
CDU-Bundestagsfraktion, Deutscher Bundestag
Bundeshaus
53 Bonn 1

Hildegard Bartels
c/o Bundesministerium des Innern
Postfach
53 Bonn 1

An apprentice's wage

Even in the early years, the time of apprenticeship, girls earn a lower average wage than boys. In "women's" trades, girls were earning 380 DM a month in 1979 while their male counterparts working in "men's" trades were earning an average of 475 DM. The lowest wage paid to girls was 172 DM a month, the highest paid to boys was 860 DM.

Useful address: Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung
Postfach
5300 Bonn 1

An emancipated woman

"Self-confidence and independence" are the primary attributes of an emancipated woman, according to 40% of the people replying to a question put by EMNID, an opinion research institute. Disparaging answers were few and far between (4% said "arrogance", 7% "hysteria"). The overall impression was positive.

Tough going for women in Ellwangen

Of the 30 local councillors in Ellwangen in Baden Württemberg, two women have been elected on a feminist ticket. Their colleagues, however, are making their life difficult, preventing them from gaining access to the work of preparatory committees.

One of the two elected councillors, Gisela Mayer, was amazed to find that she was not being allowed to submit amendments. An objection was lodged under constitutional law and letters of encouragement have been flowing in from the whole of Germany, and even from beyond its frontiers.

Useful address: Gisela Mayer
 Gemeinderat Ellwangen
 709 Ellwangen

Father and (a sick) child

It is becoming increasingly common for a father to stay at home to look after a child who is ill. By law, fathers are entitled to five days' paid leave, just like mothers, to look after their children of 8 and under. According to the figures for 1978, 10,427 fathers obtained this leave in 31,652 cases of illness.

Women's organizations are urging that every parent be entitled to ten days' paid leave and that the age limit for sick children be lifted.

G R E E C E

Family law reform

The Greek constitution which was drawn up in 1975 contains an explicit clause (article 4, paragraph 2) on the equality of the sexes. To apply this measure, a special committee was set up in December 1975, its first task being to outline a reform of family law and various other provisions of Greek law.

The outline produced by the committee proposed equality for man and woman within the family, among other points, but the Minister of Justice considered that the draft laid itself open to criticism in several ways and created a new committee responsible for drawing up a revised outline.

Women's organizations have called for "at least half of the committee to consist of women so that it will not represent an unacceptable level of inequality right from the start". The Government is drawing up its list of the committee members.

I R E L A N D

Employment Equality Agency: a report

The Irish Employment Equality Agency has published its second annual report which complains that lack of funds is hampering its efforts, although it can congratulate itself on a number of successes. In three years, two thirds of equal pay claims have been conceded. In 1979, 44 letters (compared with nearly 500 the previous year) had to be sent to advertisers and newspapers drawing attention to breaches in the law regarding discriminatory job advertising. A major research project on how subject availability in schools affect the career prospects of boys and girls in later life was started.

The Irish public sector itself is not immune to criticism by the Agency. The national transport company has been forced to employ women conductors as a result of the Agency's formal investigation of its recruitment procedures. In another field, it is likely that the upper age limit for application for public service jobs will be removed, as it tends to discriminate against women re-entering public sector employment.

Meanwhile, the EEA notes with some resignation that in 1979 women earned 57.6% of the amount earned by men. This figure may not reflect the situation accurately, says the report, as the statistics cover shift work, which women rarely undertake, but excludes part-time earnings.

The Agency is critical of the fact that legislation guaranteeing women maternity leave or the right to return to their old jobs has still not been enacted. It would also like to see legislation to provide creches in workplaces, flexible working hours and child care leave entitlement for either parent.

Useful address: Employment Equality Agency
 Davitt House, Mespil Road
 Dublin 4

Farm wives or farmers ?

Ireland's 100,000 farmers are threatened by the introduction of capital acquisition tax. This has meant that many have been taking a fresh look at their finances and now realise the tax advantages of putting their farms into joint ownership with their wives. The move goes some way towards relieving farming women of one of their biggest problems, their lack of economic and legal status.

Discussing the change, Pearl Holt, a leading member of the Irish Farmers' Association, says that it will alleviate the problem of communications among rural women in far-flung districts. "It is not that rural women are unaware of what is happening in the women's movement and it is not that it is irrelevant to us. We are less vocal because we have nowhere to speak."

Useful address: The Irish Farmers' Association
 Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell
 Dublin 12

Rape law proposals criticized

Women's organizations and family law experts are highly critical of the Irish Government's decision not to include the concept of marital rape in its Criminal Law (Rape) Bill currently being debated.

The proposed law, which gives a measure of protection to victims appearing in court, is expected to be enacted soon.

Useful addresses:

Women Against Rape Action Group,
and The Rape Crisis Centre,
PO Box 1027,
Dublin 6

Council for the Status of Women
54 Merrion Square
Dublin 2

The law made simpler for separating couples

A bill is being discussed in Irish Parliament which would make it possible for legal actions such as divorce a menso et thoro - the nearest thing in Ireland to divorce - to be heard in district courts, rather than in the high court as at present, where legal costs are often prohibitive. Under the Government proposals, hearings could be presented by a solicitor and costs could be met out of public funds in certain cases.

I T A L Y

Family law

Christian Democrat parliamentary groups in the Upper and Lower House have arranged a seminar in Rome on the theme of "legislation for the family: Christian Democracy achievements and proposals". Five years after the family law reform and ten years after the introduction of divorce in Italy, it is a good time to stand back and take a look at the situation.

Senator Rosa Jervolino Russo, who is the spokeswoman on family matters within the Party, stressed the vital role of the family unit within society.

Useful address: Senator Rosa Jervolino Russo
Senato
Palazzo Madama
Rome

L U X E M B O U R G

Alimony

In Luxembourg, 27% of the alimony payments ordered by the courts are never paid, 37% paid only irregularly. The members of Luxembourg's Parliament have now voted for a law that will enable the "national solidarity fund" to make advances to divorced women; the fund will then take responsibility for recovering the amounts from the defaulting husbands.

Wearing uniform

Two typists and a telephonist, who make up the female staff of the Luxembourg customs authority, obtained permission to wear the customs service uniform. The Luxembourg customsmen's association then stepped in by calling upon the Secretary of State in question to insist on the rules being followed; and the rule is that only those people who have completed national service - which is compulsory in Luxembourg - may wear uniform.

The typists and the telephonist are now back in their own civilian clothes.

N E T H E R L A N D S

Abortion law change

By 76 votes against 74, a law has now been enacted on the termination of pregnancies in the Netherlands. The law has not been greeted with unanimous approval, however; in the words of Ineke Haas-Berger, an MP in the Partij van de Arbeid (Labour Party), "ten years' struggle for nothing!".

The associations which have been campaigning for the liberalization of abortion have decided to press on with the fight. Their complaints are that abortion is still a punishable offence except in the cases specified by law and that, in their view, a woman should be entitled to make her own decisions.

In fact, abortion has been free in the Netherlands for many years, even for women coming from other countries for the purpose. All that has happened is that the authorities have been turning a blind eye.

Useful address: Ministerie van Justitie
Schedeldoekshaven 100
The Hague

Subsidies for part-time work

Part-time work costs the employer more than full-time. Starting with this observation, Mr Hans Wiegel, the Minister of the Interior, has earmarked Fl.10 million to encourage the State and the provincial and local authorities to increase the number of part-time jobs. With a grant of Fl.2,000 per job, 5,000 new positions could be created.

The national civil service already provides 9,000 part-time jobs (60% of the total number), 8,000 of which are taken up by women. In the local authorities, there are 21,000 part-time positions (10% of the total), and there are about 1,000 jobs in provincial authority offices (7%).

Financial aid of this type already exists in the private sector, having been introduced by the Ministry for Social Affairs.

Useful address: Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken
Schedeldoekshaven 200
The Hague

A report on emancipation

Jeltien Kraaijeveld-Wouters, the Secretary of State for Emancipation, has brought out a report on emancipation policy over the past two years. In the preface, she writes that the Government is conducting this policy "with conviction".

"Many things have been started up in the past two years. This report is a sort of instant snapshot. Practical action and new developments are all described here. Thanks to these, both men and women will be able to understand and keep abreast of emancipation policy, judging and influencing that policy."

Useful address: Staatsuitgeverij (Government stationery office)
Christoffel Plantijnstraat 1
The Hague

UNITED KINGDOM

Demand for new equality legislation

The Equal Opportunities Commission has asked the Home Secretary to ask Parliament for 25 changes in the Equal Pay Act (1970) and the Sex Discrimination Act (1975).

One important amendment would bring British legislation into line with European Community directives by introducing the concept of equal pay for work of equal value into the Equal Pay Act. Other amendments urge equality in pension and retirement arrangements and the shifting of the burden of proof in sex discrimination cases to the alleged discriminator.

The EOC also wants the Act extended to give equal pay on a pro-rata basis to part-time workers and to provide more flexible arbitration procedures. There should be a time limit of ten years in which any distinction between sexes in the rates charged for insurance premiums should be ended.

Useful address: EOC
Overseas House, Quay Street
Manchester M3 3HN

Wider opportunities course for women

Two courses designed to explore the needs of women who had been out of work for some time, who lacked confidence and the necessary skills in applying for jobs, have had successful results. The courses, one in Cardiff and one in Birmingham, were set up by the Manpower Services Commission under the Training Opportunities Scheme (TOPS) in 1978.

This special type of training was able to help the women who attended the "wider opportunities" course to evaluate their own skills and decide on further training and their future plans.

Because of economic recession and reluctance on the part of industry, much of the practical work had to be simulated. Despite this, the course was a success and placements in jobs and further courses were high. The women on the course benefited by acquiring self-confidence, motivation and a positive approach to work, as well as the ability to accept rejection with greater composure.

Useful address: Ann Morris Jones
South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education
Cyncoed
Cardiff, Wales

Maternity benefits

A consultative document entitled "A Fresh Look at Maternity Benefits" issued by the Department of Health and Social Security has incurred an angry response from the Equal Opportunities Commission and from the Northern Ireland EOC.

Britain's maternity benefits are among the least generous in the European Community, consisting mainly of a maternity grant of £25 (unchanged since 1969), a National Insurance maternity allowance of £20.65 a week payable for 18 weeks (11 weeks before birth and seven weeks after) and maternity pay, to qualify for which a woman must have worked for the same employer for two years (or for five years if part-time), payable at the rate of 90% of the weekly wage for six weeks.

The Department of Health and Social Security is proposing to replace the present system of three payments by other options involving a larger grant only or a combination of a grant and an allowance. Both Commissions oppose these options on the grounds that expectant mothers might receive even less money than at present. Baroness Lockwood, Chairman of the EOC, has called for a systematic review, not piecemeal changes.

Useful address: EOC
Overseas House, Quay Street
Manchester M3 3HN

Breakthrough

This is the title of a 42-page booklet, with 42 photographs, 42 stories and 42 heroines, providing a picture of five years' success in achieving equality in the world of work. The booklet proves that, in the words of William the Silent, "there is no need to hope before undertaking, nor to succeed before persevering".

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission, Press Office
1 Bedford Street
London WC2E 9HD

Women and unemployment

Between 1975 and 1980, the number of men registered as unemployed rose by 59%, the number of women by over 150%. In 1975, women accounted for 17.9% of the registered unemployed; by 1980, the figure was 30.7%. These figures were quoted by the Equal Opportunities Commission Chairman, Baroness Lockwood, to a House of Lords select committee. Among the long-term remedies suggested by the EOC were: greater access for women to jobs that have traditionally been a male preserve; change in attitudes starting in the school; vocational retraining for women who have already had access to the labour market; a shorter working day; and more favourable status for women part-time workers.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission
Overseas House, Quay Street
Manchester M3 3HN

The elderly and the handicapped

Elderly and handicapped people need care, and in 75% of cases that care is provided by women. According to a study commissioned by the Equal Opportunities Commission, it is usually the woman who sacrifices her social life and her career, without any aid from the Government.

In 44% of the cases investigated, the women have shouldered the responsibility for more than five years; in one case out of four, the woman has had the responsibility for more than ten years. The most dramatic situation is that of a woman who looks after a handicapped child for whom she will be responsible to the end of her life without the hope of a rest or a holiday.

Unfortunately, it seems that the social services - which are already overwhelmed with demands - step in only when the close family is manifestly unwilling or unable to provide proper care. In the great majority of cases, the very fact that a woman is so devoted ensures that she will receive no help.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is drawing up several proposals that will provide direct help to women who are so generous in the care of the handicapped, the infirm and the elderly.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission
Overseas House, Quay Street
Manchester M3 3HN

M I L I T A N T A C T I V I T I E S

I N T E R N A T I O N A L O R G A N I Z A T I O N S

Territorial planning

The European Centre of the International Women's Council would like to see women playing a more active role in planning decisions on the environment and local development. The Centre recently decided to launch a campaign to ensure that national women's councils will be represented on national, regional and local bodies responsible for planning changes in our environment. The Centre would also like the public to participate (something that many of our countries' laws state as being obligatory) in a more realistic and active way.

Ginette Schaack, the chairperson of CECIF - the Centre's abbreviated name in French - has urged that women architects and town and country planners be appointed by the authorities to organize women's participation.

Useful address: CECIF, c/o Ginette Schaack
 2 Allée Goebel
 Luxembourg

Education and information technology

The "Centre européen féminin de recherche sur l'évolution de la société" - the European Women's Centre for Research on the Evolution of Society, or CEFRES for short - has drawn up a report on education and the spread of information technology in society. Taking as its starting point the observation that women are excluded - or rather exclude themselves - from most scientific and technological developments, CEFRES reflects on the steps that should be taken to avoid women being isolated from the world of information technology.

According to the authors, a systematic cultural approach should be adopted at the time of introducing technical and social innovations. CEFRES notes that computer language, for instance, is dominated by male Western culture.

The Centre hopes that information technology will be included in school syllabuses as a general education subject. It would also be prepared to support a campaign designed to take the mystery out of information technology, which would also help to alter the image of women and careers in technology.

Useful address: CEFRES
 55 Rue de Varenne
 75007 Paris

Getting ready for the 21st century

In "The International Soroptimist", Eileen Byrne has written an article on the education of women for the 21st century under the title of "A Long Road Ahead".

"I find it inconceivable for us to let another decade go by without fighting an unceasing battle for women's literacy. If we don't do it now, when will we do it?"

Eileen Byrne, a militant soroptimist, is the author of a remarkable report on equal opportunities in secondary education and the middle school in EEC countries, produced at the request of the European Commission. The brain drain affects women as well: today Dr. Eileen Byrne has moved to Sydney University in Australia.

Useful address: Charlotte von Loeper
President, International Soroptimist of Europe
Broicher Waldweg 59
D-4330 Mulheim (Ruhr) 1

Men and women in the Church

"The Church can no longer ignore human rights as they pertain to women and families" are the opening words of an appeal launched by the international group of women and men in the Church.

Following up the arguments based on discussions by UNO and the 1971 Synod, the group has come out in favour of action in which men and women are equal partners. It concludes that only by taking a fresh look at the equal dignity and responsibility of man and women, both in the family and in our society, can the Church perform its duty of providing pastoral care to the family in a way appropriate for our own times.

Useful address: Groupe international Femmes et Hommes dans l'Eglise
14 Rue Saint-Benoît
75006 Paris

Women farmers in Europe

Newsletter 8/80 issued by C.E.P.F.A.R. (Centre européen pour la Promotion et la Formation en Milieu agricole et rural - the European centre for promotion and training in the agricultural and rural environment) is devoted to the farming woman in Europe. In the introduction, Ms Fahy, the chairperson of the Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the EEC (COPA), points out how the farming woman has gradually gained awareness of her multiple role and would like to perform that role in full.

"To help her do so, she must be able to obtain basic education and training, opportunity for vocational betterment, the kind of facilities provided by social infrastructure when adapted to suit the rural environment and a statute under which her work is recognized."

Useful address: C.E.P.F.A.R.
23-25 Rue de la Science, Boîte 10
1040 Brussels

Family law beyond frontiers

The theme of the seminar held in Belgium by the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers was "The authority for and enforcement of foreign court orders on the subject of family law - civil and criminal aspects".

The theme is highly topical, since the Council of Europe convention on the recognition and enforcement of Court decisions on the custody of children and the return of children to custody was signed in Luxembourg in May 1981, while the convention on the civil aspects of the international kidnapping of children was signed in The Hague in October 1980.

The general report on the seminars was drawn up by Suzanne Oschinsky, honorary director general in Belgium's youth protection bureau. The proceedings are to be published at a later date.

Useful address: Association belge des Femmes juristes
Belgische vereniging voor vrouwelijke Juristen
c/o Rolande Hacquart
Rue Guimard 19, boîte 1
1040 Brussels

B E L G I U M

Social security for women in the home

Women members of the Fédération générale du travail de Belgique, the Belgian general federation of labour, are worried about the wage freeze that has been decided by the Government under an economic revival plan.

They are also angry about the restrictive measures adopted to prevent unemployment, which affect unemployed women more than any other group.

The Federation's women's group suggests that, since women in the home enjoy the benefits of social security, they should be asked to contribute towards the common funds, based on 20% of the income attributed to them for tax purposes. According to the women's group, these contributions would bring about 9,000 million Belgian francs into the coffers of the social security and pensions fund, at a rate of fr.5,000 per woman per year.

Useful address:	F.G.T.B.	A.B.V.V.
	Marcelle Noens	Mw. Hoornaert
	42 Rue Haute	42 Hoogstraat
	<u>1000 Brussels</u>	<u>1000 Brussels</u>

Seeing and understanding Poland

The sixth feminist journey to be arranged by the women's centre in Brussels is to be Poland from 11 to 20 April. The aim of these tours has always been to take a closer look to achieve greater understanding.

Useful address: Maison des Femmes
29 Rue Blanche
1060 Brussels

Women architects

International meetings often bear fruit: it was at an international exhibition of the work of women architects that the union of Belgian women architects was born (Union des femmes architectes de Belgique/Unie van Vrouwen Architecten van België). The number of women architects in that country is growing. The first woman to qualify in architecture did so in 1930. Today, there are more than 300 women members of the order of architects, 5% of the total number in the profession.

The exhibition held in Brussels from 14 February to 1 March will have provided the public with the opportunity to appreciate the undisputed talents of women architects. An unusual note of courtesy was struck during the exhibition: the architects and the leaders of their associations made themselves available to the public two days a week.

Useful address:	U.F.A.B.	U.V.A.B.
	67 Rue Faider	Ter Rivierenlaan 191
	<u>1050 Brussels</u>	<u>2100 Deurne</u>

The Marie Popelin Prize

The Dutch-speaking section of the Belgian National Women's Council has awarded the Marie Popelin prize to Rita Mulier. Marie Popelin was a historic figure in the women's movement in Belgium, creating the first such group in 1891 after she has graduated in law at the Brussels Free University.

Rita Mulier, too, has chosen the law as her career. Her skills and talents were very soon put to good use in politics and in working for the emancipation of women. A representative of young people on the steering committee of the Social Christian Party (CVP) from 1969 to 1973, Rita Mulier was one of the founders of Vrouwen Overleg Komitee (women's thought committee), becoming its chairwoman in 1973.

Besides writing many articles, the prize-winner has done outstanding work in the field of training, as part of her efforts on behalf of many women's organizations.

Useful address: Nationale Vrouwenraad van België
Queteletplein 1a
1030 Brussels

Survival pension

Infor-femmes has produced a compilation of all the information on survival pensions that may be needed.

The document will be very useful to widows and retired women, as well as providing a good opportunity to compare Belgian with other legislations.

Useful address: Infor-femmes
7 Place Royale
1000 Brussels

Belgian women in China

At the invitation of the national federation of Chinese women, a group of French women have paid an official visit to China, where it was welcomed by Kang Ke Xing, the national president of the federation of Chinese women and vice president of the executive committee of the national people's assembly, as well as by Soong Ching-Ling, the widow of Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Republic of China in 1912.

In its visit to the regions of Peking, Sion, Shanghai, Sochow and Canton, the Belgian delegation saw for itself what has been achieved in education, the running of people's communes, industry and the role acquired by Chinese women in a changing society.

Led by a Social Christian MP, Wivina Demeester-De Meyer, the delegation members were Hetty Geldolf (S.V.V. Antwerp), Marcelle Hoens, the national spokeswoman for "women's affairs" in the Belgian general federation of labour, Claire Hugoel-Lagneau, national vice chairman of "Vie Féminine", Paulette Preud'homme of the association of women members of the French-speaking democratic front, and Rita Samain-Omwal, national secretary to the liberal and democrat party women's group.

Madame, mademoiselle...

Monsieur, mondamoiseau

The difference between "Madame" and "Mademoiselle" is no trifling matter. According to custom in French, nobody is entitled to be called "Madame" unless she has officially entered into marriage. To combat this form of discrimination, Nadine Hancq and Suzanne Pierlot are calling on all Belgian women to use the word "Madame", especially as all that is needed is to ask the banks and public authorities - insisting if necessary.

Useful addresses: Nadine Hancq

Place A. Leemans 2 Bte 3
1050 Brussels

Suzanne Pierlot

Champs Boutons
6760 Virton

To stay with the same subject of language and courtesy titles: an English-speaking reader has gently chided us for using the word "chairman" instead of "chairperson" when we write about a woman who presides an association or meeting. We were just about to write a sharp note to the translation people when we noted that Baroness Lockwood's official title is given as "chairman" in all the Equal Opportunities Commission papers. The EC Official Journal was no help in settling the matter: it refers to Simone Veil as "The President".

Women and art

The Belgian women's artistic federation welcomes any woman artist practising any form of art, whatever her means of expression, on condition that it satisfies the standard of quality.

The federation's aim is to help artists by giving them the opportunity to show their work inside and outside Belgium. To do this, it arranges exhibitions, conferences, visits to artists' studios and any event that will create invaluable and enriching contact among artists.

In the space of twenty five years, the federation has made sustained efforts to link women artists in the whole of Belgium with bonds of friendship, a friendship that has never been troubled by any political, philosophical, language or other difficulty.

Useful address: Fédération féminine artistique belge
Belgische federatie voor Kunstenaresen
Avenue du Manoir, 51 Ridderhofstedelaan
Brussels 1180

F R A N C E

Cinema and feminism

The role of women in film-making is just being recognized outside the circle of initiates. Of special note is the report entitled "Le cinéma au féminisme", coordinated by Monique Hennebelle-Martineau, which has been published by the magazine CinémAction (fr.30, plus fr.5 postage). This weighty 200-page book is not restricted to "cameras in France" but also provides valuable information on women's cinema in Belgium, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, the United States and the Arab world.

Useful address: CinémAction
c/o Papyrus
39 Boulevard Magenta
75010 Paris

Antoinette and information technology

"A revolution shouldn't be bungled" is the explicit heading to a report in the magazine Antoinette on the seminar on "women and information technology". Chaired by Christiane Gilles, the federation secretary to the Confédération Générale du Travail (the General Federation of Labour), the meeting was attended by women workers who had already been dealing with information technology and who brought a wealth of experience with them. To quote them: "in the Post Office accounts departments, it is the computer that does the skilled work and the women clerks who do the boring, repetitive work". Women who now deal with information technology report that many forms of physical and mental illness have already made their appearance with this new development. Sometimes, women are no longer able to check on the work they themselves have produced.

Useful address: "Antoinette"
50 Rue Edouard Pailleron
75019 Paris

Women's Rights

After 112 years of life, "Le Droit des Femmes", a journal published by the Ligue française pour le Droit des femmes (French league for women's rights), is to cease publication through lack of Funds. It is sad to see such a long-standing champion of the cause disappear, but there is satisfaction in knowing how valiantly it has fulfilled its mission. Irène Lipkowski, the chairman of the League, and Jeanne Chaton, who has edited the journal over the past few years, have issued a challenge that has been heard and taken up by numerous other organizations.

Useful address: Ligue française pour le droit des femmes
191 Boulevard St. Germain, 75007 Paris

G E R M A N Y

German Women's Council

Helga Thieme, a doctor and a representative of the association of women doctors, has been elected president of the Deutscher Frauenrat (German Women's Council). Its vice-president is Irmgard Blättel, a trade unionist from the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (German Union Federation).

Helga Thieme is taking over from Irmgard von Meibom, who has been a dynamic and well respected president. May we offer her our best wishes for success in the pursuit of her many interests.

Useful address: Deutscher Frauenrat
Augustastrasse 42
5300 Bonn 2

Women and the handicapped

The association of CDU (Christian Democrat) women would like the authorities to think about the lot of women caring for a handicapped person at home. The wives, mothers and daughters of handicapped people are those who bear the brunt of the burden, and they receive little support from the community.

The CDU women members are calling for tax relief in respect of handicapped children, accident insurance for women in the home who are looking after a handicapped person and, above all, for due allowance to be made for the time spent on caring for the handicapped when calculating income and pensions. Mobile social services (such as family helps) should be reinforced to provide a little respite for all those women so unstinting in their devotion as to risk their own health.

Useful address: CDU - Frauenvereinigung
Konrad-Adenauer Haus
53 Bonn 1

A shorter working day

According to a recent survey conducted by the magazine "Brigitte", 27% of women and the same percentage of men would like the working day to be shorter; 24% of women and 23% of men would like a shorter week, while 17% of women and 15% of men are in favour of more days off. Research by the Federal Minister for the Family shows that the strongest pressure for cutting the number of hours worked in the day comes from single parents.

Useful address: "Brigitte", Possmoorstrasse
2000 Hamburg 36

After the elections

The national elections held in Germany on 5 October 1980 were disappointing from the woman's viewpoint, in terms of the positions given them in the party lists of candidates and the end results: the newly elected Bundestag has only 8.6% women. On the very next day, a group of women politicians, journalists and members of other women's organizations was set up to promote female participation in political decisions. The group has taken the apt name of "Initiative 6. Oktober".

Useful address: Initiative 6. Oktober
Meckenheimer Allee 131
53 Bonn 1

G R E E C E

The prolonged spring of women's organizations

Greek women's groups are as yet little known in other European Community countries, although there is no lack of desire on other side to make friends. It is a far simpler matter: women's movements have had to cope with many difficulties over the past decade and they have needed a lot of courage to overcome them.

First of all, the colonels' regime hardly promoted growing awareness among women. Those women who were aware of the issues and well organized gave priority to the struggle for democracy. This meant that Greece played little part in the great interflow of ideas and radical changes in mentality that marked the early 1970s in Western Europe for the feminist movement.

When parliamentary democracy returned in 1975, women had to devote their energies to patching up their organizations again - a thankless but vital task. The work was all the more difficult because there was an intensive movement for remodelling the political parties in Greece at the same time.

Among the older and more experienced organizations is Syndesmos gia ta dikeomata tis gynekas (the league for women's rights), set up in 1920, and the Greek branch of the International Women's Alliance. Campaigning under the banner of "equal rights, equal duties", the league is familiar to the public through the prize it awards annually to journalists for their articles and to schoolchildren for their essays on equality between men and women.

Another well known organization, Ethniko symvoulion ellinidon (national council of Greek women), a branch of the International Women's Council and a federation of several women's groups, is particularly active in the field of sex equality.

Since 1975, new women's organisations have been created. The largest are attached to the political parties in spirit, if not structurally. The best known are:

Omosopondia gynekon Ellados (federation of women of Greece)

Kinissi dimokratikon gynekon (democratic women's movement)

Enossi gynekon Ellados (union of women of Greece)

Over the next few months, "Women of Europe" will be discussing each of these organizations in greater detail, as their activities make news.

I R E L A N D

After Copenhagen

Ireland's Council for the Status of Women was the first organization to pick up the threads of the United Nations Mid-Decade Conference in Copenhagen and to arrange a national forum as a first step towards drawing up a plan of action.

The forum held towards the end of 1980 was attended by more than 1,000 women from all over Ireland, discussing everything from changing technology, health, violence, sexism in education, Church control of education, sexuality, work, trade unions, child care, nuclear power, prisons, divorce, family law, rural women, women and the media, to women in Northern Ireland's Armagh prison.

Workshops were open to anyone and each formulated resolutions which were put forward at a plenary session on the second day of the two-day event. Now the Council is to publish a report based on the forum decisions.

Useful address: Council for the Status of Women
54 Merrion Square
Dublin 2

The status of illegitimate children

Young Fine Gael, the youth section of Ireland's main opposition party, has drafted proposed legislation to abolish illegitimacy and legal discrimination against children born outside marriage.

The organization points out that in Irish law the 3,000 illegitimate children born annually have no legal status, no rights of succession to their father's property and only limited rights of succession to that of the mother.

The bill, which they hope will be taken up by their party or put forward in private members' time, would also make it possible for legitimate children who are not orphans to be adopted. It would legalize scientific tests in use in other countries to establish paternity and would give unmarried fathers legal status on declaring their paternity.

Young Fine Gael has spent eleven months canvassing public opinion, collecting 50,000 signatures and preparing the bill.

Useful address: Young Fine Gael
51 Upper Mount Street
Dublin 2

Women in the Media

Ireland's broadcasting authority, RTE, discriminates against women, both as an employer and in its presentation of women in programmes. So says the Women's Political Association, whose "Women in Broadcasting" study group has prepared a report on "Women in RTE: a Question of Balance", which includes video documentation of their case.

Too few women in the newsroom, in decision-making and in important programme planning, the group says. And, it continues, advertising and drama are insulting in their portrayal of women.

One top-rated chat show responded by throwing open its entire air time for a discussion of the issue. At one point, the host - Gay Byrne - handed over his chair to the station's best known woman broadcaster, Marior Finucane, who was greeted with a standing ovation from the studio audience, packed with women.

RTE has not commented officially, except to point out that its own investigation into women in broadcasting is continuing.

Useful address: Women's Political Association
c/o Secretary, Dorren Dalton
187 Pine Valley
Dublin 14

I T A L Y

Coming out against violence

The Elsa Bergamaschi Centre has embarked on a study of the violence directed against women in Europe. Launched by Gioia Longo in Rome, the venture has been taken up in Lyons by Yvette Roudy and in Gorizia by Senator Vera Squarcialupi, both of whom are members of European Parliament.

A common awareness is starting to emerge in the Community as women's histories and experience come to light. The feeling of solidarity will undoubtedly soon be translated into practical measures.

Useful address: Centro Studi Elsa Bergamaschi
Via Colonna Antonina 41
Rome

Philately

Maria Zaniboni Riviuccio has put together an amazing stamp collection with the theme of the International Year of the Child. Quite apart from her pleasure in philately, Maria Zanoboni Riviuccio thought it would be a good opportunity to create an exhibition illustrating international solidarity on this specific issue.

She is now building up a collection - which will also in turn become an exhibition - on women as illustrated in stamps. Children's rights were exemplified by minor philatelic masterpieces. Will it be the same for women's rights?

Useful address: Maria Zaniboni Riviuccio
Via Adelaide Ristori 20
Rome

With the best will in the world, "Women of Europe" cannot by itself report on all the projects, efforts and events arranged by women in all our many regions, on so many problems.

Organizations, groups and research centres should weave a communications network on their own account. Wherever possible, we give an address to which you can write for more information. What happens then depends on your energy, solidarity and conviction.

Our resources - in time, staff and money - are not unlimited. "Women of Europe" will to an increasing extent have to report only on the really new experiments, the outstanding ventures, the projects that embody an exceptional effort of the imagination.

We rely on the organizations cited in these pages to be so courteous as to reply to all the "Women of Europe" readers who contact them.

Towards a committee on the position of women

Would it be possible to set up a committee on women's status, responsible for representing women's interests in dealings with the authorities and for conducting a dialogue with those authorities? To answer the question, the European Movement has held a seminar in Rome, with representatives from the political, social and union groupings as well as many women's organization leaders.

All those who spoke during the seminar stressed the value of a body which could conduct research, deliver opinions, make proposals and monitor and provide information on all the problems of women in the family, society and the world of work.

Useful address: Movimento Europeo
 Viale Guido Baccelli 10
 00153 Rome

Professional women rethink their role

The Federazione Italiana Donne Arti, Professioni, Affari (Italian federation of women in the arts, professions and business) has a new president, Cesaria Pancheri. It has been decided that the theme for 1981 would be: "FIDAPA 1980: roles and goals". In the association's journal, Tatiana De Bartolomeo writes that FIDAPA should take a searching look at itself now that it had celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

The association's name is in itself indicative of the solidarity that is needed among women who have assumed professional responsibilities. Even so, a fresh look should perhaps be taken at society, reaching out to women who may not be members but who share the same concerns.

Useful address: FIDAPA, c/o Cesaria Pancheri
Via V. Veneto 146
38100 Trento

L U X E M B O U R G

The first woman vice-chairman of a trade union

At its last meeting, the central committee of the LCGB (the Christian union federation) elected Josée Jacobs as its vice-chairman.

Josée Jacobs is the chairman of a group of private employees in this federation. Her election reflected the policy being conducted by the Christian union: to open its ranks to those working in the private sector, where women are particularly numerous. As the vice-chairman, Josée Jacobs will also be a member of the union's executive committee.

Useful address: LCGB
Rue du Commerce
Luxembourg

A pilot day nursery

Since the start of the year, Luxembourg has had its own pilot nursery, in which pioneer work has been done in many fields.

The body that instigated this new venture was Luxembourg's Women's Liberation Movement, which signed an agreement with the Luxembourg Government - specifically, the Ministry for the Family - and spent two years on the background work in liaison with teaching experts, psychiatrists, child care specialists and other experts before starting up an exemplary day nursery.

A maximum of twenty or so children (including eight babies) can be accepted. The acceptance criteria are strictly social, with special consideration being given to unmarried mothers, divorcees, etc. One room has even been set aside for any woman in distress.

In its educational work, the accent is on constant contact with the parents to discuss all the problems that may arise. Attempts are also made to encourage the children to take an active part in the life of the unit by designing the fittings with the children in mind, such as the mini-sinks in the kitchen.

Finally, there is no difference in rank among the educational staff. The nursery, named the "Foyer Chances et Egalité", has hired the only male nursery school teacher in the country, to break out of the systematic exclusion of men from the vast field of child care.

Useful address: Foyer du jour "Chances et Egalité"
Route d'Esch
Luxembourg

The "Foyer de la Femme"

For more than 50 years, the first women's organization of a progressive kind, "Foyer de la Femme", has been labouring to improve women's financial and social condition.

When the "Foyer" was founded in 1927, it was a year of large-scale workers' demonstrations in the Grand Duchy, with protest against inflation and the rising price of food, clothes and rent, etc. The organization's main objective when it was created by working men's wives was to improve the lot of their children by giving them a balanced and healthy diet, taking them away from cramped, unhealthy homes at least for a few weeks a year.

The "Foyer" provided courses in cooking, hygiene and sewing - something badly needed at the time - and also gave a political and union education to women who had been on the fringes of society. Today, the organization's holiday camps still provide an opportunity for many low-income families to give their children a breath of fresh air.

The "Foyer de la Femme" now has 8,000 members. For many years, its president was the former MEP Astrid Lulling.

N E T H E R L A N D S

Women agricultural engineers

The Stichting maatschappelijke plaats Wageningse afestudeerden (foundation for the social placement of graduates from the Wageningen higher agricultural institute) has conducted a survey on the position of women graduates from the institute on the labour market.

It was in 1920 that the first woman enrolled in the higher agricultural institute, but it was not until the 60s that girls became more interested: today they number about a quarter of the student body.

According to the researchers, more and more young women are trying to reconcile family life and their careers, whereas only a few years ago women were still having to choose between one or the other. A diploma helps to find work: in 1978, 67% of the women graduates were working, although the average varied depending on marital status. Unmarried women are quite willing to work full-time, while married women are slightly more reluctant to do so. Mothers try to find a part-time job as far as possible.

Useful address: Stichting MPW
Stadsbrink 389
6707 AC Wageningen

Women and the Law

A congress with the theme of "woman and the law" has been held by Nederlandse Vereniging van Vrouwen met Akademische Opleiding (Dutch association of women graduates). According to fairly recent but very useful tradition, the association set up an "information market" on the fringes of its congress, with more than twenty bodies publicizing their work and activities - in a very simple way, with just a few tables.

The NVVAO association also had the bright idea of establishing a "sex discrimination complaint bank" a few years ago. With this "data bank", NVVAO has compiled a dossier based on real facts that can be checked.

Useful address: VVAO Klachtenbank - Seksdiskriminatie
p/a Keizerstraat 72-74
2548 BK 'sGravenhage

Action now

The magazine of women workers in the FNV union is called "Aktie Nu", "action now". Like many other newsletters, the editors wanted to find out when their readers thought about the publication's good and bad points. Response to such surveys are often disappointing, however, and Aktie Nu logically and coolly warned its readers: "fill in your answers to this questionnaire straight away, otherwise you will forget. And if you don't send an answer, we shall assume that you are no longer interested in our newsletter, and we won't send it to you again".

Useful address: Aktie Nu
Postbus 8456
1005 AL Amsterdam

UNITED KINGDOM

Discrimination in manual trades

"You're not strong enough. Come back in six months." This was the surprising reaction to a woman who applied for a course in plastering in Burnley. Many other women have reported on the surprise, disbelief and rudeness at the idea of women applying for courses traditionally filled by men.

A unique survey carried out by Women and Manual Trades, a small but growing organization of women engaged in the non-traditional work of building, carpentering and other manual skills, has revealed that such cases are far from rare.

The report says that women wishing to take up manual trades are often caught in a vicious circle: they cannot get training until they have had practical site experience, and cannot get site experience without training. Most of the would-be manual workers are a new generation of women under 30. They find that, unlike boys, they have had no training in wood and metal work at school and it is difficult to compete with their male peers.

Women and Manual Trades wants to see a scheme of pre-Training Opportunity Scheme courses for women only so that they can learn basic skills, and then a uniform procedure for further TOPS training schemes where women applicants "should not be subjected to attitudes of scorn and disbelief simply because they are women".

Useful address: Women and Manual Trades
40 Dale Street
London W4

Fair play for the Disabled

The Disability Alliance is a federation of over 70 organizations for and of people with disabilities, who have joined together to press for the introduction of a comprehensive income scheme for all disabled people.

It has called for the phasing out, under existing social security schemes, of the "normal household duties test" applied to disabled married women who claim non-contributory invalidity pension on the grounds that they can no longer do housework. The Alliance has produced a report, "After Working all these Years", by Caroline Glendinning. Drawing on the findings of a research project funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission, it argues that the test is unfair, an administrative nightmare and based on outdated assumptions about the position of married women.

The report quotes case histories of disabled married women who had to give up jobs because of ill health, suffering humiliating investigation and then being denied the extra pension because they were adjudged capable of doing their own housework. "My main job was the one in the hospital for which I was highly trained," said one woman angrily, "and it should not be assumed that my main purpose in life is to do housework."

Useful address: The Disability Alliance, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1
4JL

Help for the single parent in Scotland

One family in eight in Scotland, it is reckoned, is headed by a single parent. The chief cause is the rise in the divorce rate, which has more than doubled in the last decade. Most of the single parents are women but, rather surprisingly, lone fathers who are looking after children now outnumber unmarried mothers.

Elizabeth Inglis reveals this situation in an article in "Scottish Home and Country", the journal of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes. Voluntary agencies, she says, have been quick to respond to the needs of one-parent families and she lists several where people can go for help. They include the Scottish Council for Single Parents, which has published an excellent and comprehensive guide to services, Gingerbread, Scottish Women's Aid, which helps women who are the victims of domestic violence, and Cruse, which looks after widows and widowers with their families.

Useful address: The Editor, Scottish Home and Country
42A Heriot Row
Edinburgh EH3 6ES, Scotland

Women in British Agriculture

Some 80,000 women work on British farms and are believed to account for a little over a quarter of the farm labour force.

A remarkable booklet by Ruth Gasson, "The Role of Women in British Agriculture", published by the Women's Farm and Garden Association, raises the curtain a little in an exploratory survey. She found that nearly half the women employed were casuals, who might work for a few months or even a few days a year, while about two-thirds of the remaining, regular workers, were part-timers.

Women farm workers tend to be concentrated in the southeastern part of England, which is characterized by large-scale arable farming; their average age is over 40. Few have completed training courses or obtained formal qualifications.

The study is particularly interesting on the role of farmers' wives and the hostility encountered by women farmers in their own right unless they breed horses and dogs.

In-depth interviews, however, revealed that most women professed to be "very satisfied" or "quite satisfied" with their role, often a demanding one involving farm as well as household responsibilities. Even so, Ruth Gasson detected signs of conflict here, as with other women who combine a family and work outside the home, but made more difficult by isolated conditions, bad weather, unpredictable hours and the usual farm crises.

Useful address: The Women's Farm and Garden Association
Lilac Cottage, Birch Green
Colchester, Essex CO2 0NH

Support for women trades unionists

The British Trades Union Council takes the need for equality between men and women on the shop floor seriously. In a conference, delegated considered - under the general heading of "Positive Action" - whether there were any lessons to be learned in Britain from countries such as Sweden, where trade union-based bargaining had been successful, or the U.S., where legislation originally designed to bring racial equality in jobs had helped women, through the application of a quota system in employment.

The general view was that in Britain a combination of collective bargaining backed by legislation was the best solution. Other suggestions were that trade unions should campaign for all tribunal decisions on equality and sex discrimination to include recommendations for monitoring and the setting of targets for overcoming job discrimination. A similar mechanism should apply when awarding government contracts to private industry; in addition to the incorporation of a "fair wages" right, the contracts should include a non-discrimination clause.

Useful address: TUC, Congress House
Great Russell Street
London WC1

Women's European Action Group

The Women's European Action Group is a group of women from various European Community countries who have settled in Brussels for career or family reasons.

At the time of the Copenhagen conference, they were active in the Alternative Forum and presented two sets of wall charts: one on the problem of abortion in the Community nations (figures and comparative legislation), the other on what has been done for women by the European Community (equal pay, equal status, equality and social security) and what still needs to be done (tax equality, family law, community infrastructure, etc.).

Other projects are in the pipeline.

Useful address: Women's European Action Group
Tina Viollier
B.P. 61
Brussels 22
1000 Brussels

THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Men in positions of responsibility in the European Community

The new European Commission started in office in January 1981 and has a term of four years ahead. These are the men who make up the Commission and the fields for which they are responsible, although it should be borne in mind that decisions are reached as a joint body.

Gaston Thorn (Luxembourg) - President. Admitted to the Luxembourg bar in 1957, former President and Foreign Minister in the Luxembourg Government. As President of the European Commission, he is responsible for the Secretariat General, the Legal Service, the Spokesman's Group and Security. At his special wish, he is also responsible for cultural affairs.

François-Xavier Ortoli (France) - Vice-President. With a law degree, he studied at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. Was minister in several French Governments. Responsible for Economic and Financial Affairs and Credit and Investment.

Wilhelm HAERKAMP (Germany) - Vice-President. Took degree in Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Cologne. Prominent member of the Federation of German Trade Unions and a member of the European Commission since 1967. Responsible for External Affairs, including nuclear matters.

Lorenzo Natali (Italy) - Vice-President. A law graduate, member of the Christian Democrat Party National Council and several times minister in the Italian Government. His portfolio is Overall Mediterranean Policy, Enlargement and Information.

Etienne Davignon (Belgium) - Vice-President. A doctor of law, chef de cabinet first to Mr Spaak and then to Mr Harmel. Director general at the Foreign Ministry and chairman of the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency. Responsible for Industrial Affairs, Energy (including the Euratom Supply Agency) and Research and Science (including the Joint Research Centre).

Christopher Tugendhat (Britain) - Vice-President. Graduated from Cambridge with an honours degree in history. Opposition spokesman on employment and later on foreign affairs. On the Commission, in charge of Budget and Financial Control, Financial Institutions and Fiscal Affairs.

Claude CHEYSSON (France). Studied at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration; chef de cabinet to Mr Mendès-France and, as a senior official, undertook many missions in the Third World. Within the Commission, is responsible for Development.

Antonio Giolitti (Italy). Doctor of law, member of the Italian Socialist Party since 1958, several times minister in the Government. Specialist in economic affairs, he is now responsible for the Commission's Regional Policy and the Coordination of Community Funds.

Poul Dalsager (Denmark). Member of the Folketing since 1964, specializing in banking. Since 1973, member of the government body of Denmark's Central Bank. The Minister of Agriculture at the time of Finn-Olav Gundelav's death, he took over responsibility for agriculture in the European Commission.

George Gontogeorgis (Greece). Graduate of Athens University in Economic and Commercial Science. When Director General of the Ministry of Trade, he resigned in 1967 and returned to public life only in 1974 when democracy returned to Greece. Several times minister in the Greek Government. Now responsible for Transport, Fisheries and Tourism.

Karl-Heinz Narjes (Germany). A graduate in law, was chef de cabinet to Walter Hallstein, Germany's President of the European Commission. Was Director-General of the Press and Information Directorate in the Commission before being elected to the Bundestag. His portfolios are Internal Market and Industrial Innovation, the Customs Union, Environment and Consumer Protection and Nuclear Safety.

Frans Andriessen (Netherlands). Took law degree at University of Utrecht. Has been president of the Katholieke Volks Party in the lower chamber and Minister of Finance. Within the Commission, is responsible for Competition Policy and Relations with European Parliament.

Ivor Richard (Britain). Graduated in law from Oxford, admitted to bar in 1955. Labour MP, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, then UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Responsible for Employment and Social Affairs, the Tripartite Conference and Education and Vocational Training.

Michael O'Kennedy (Ireland). Graduate in law from Dublin University. Elected to the Dail in 1969, then several times minister (Transport, Foreign Affairs, Finance). His portfolios are Personnel and Administration, the Statistical Office and the Publications Office. He is also the President's delegate for specific tasks.

* * *

Equality between men and women: law and reality

The European Commission has submitted a detailed report to the Council of Ministers regarding the application of the principle of equality for men and women in access to employment and promotion, access to guidance and vocational education, and working conditions.

Progress has been made with the law, but there are still shortcomings in the way it is applied: this is the conclusion of the 250-page report.

Discussing legislation of a general kind, the report states that two years after the Community directive came into force France and Luxembourg had not passed the bills that would ensure satisfactory implementation of that measure. Letters had to be sent to Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom to point out that these countries should amend their laws to comply with every aspect of the directive.

It should be borne in mind that more than six months have passed since the Commission completed its research, and several countries have revised their legislation in the meantime.

Belgium, Denmark and Italy have kept fairly strictly to the letter of the directive, whereas the United Kingdom and Ireland have drawn up lengthy lists of exclusions. France, the Netherlands and Germany merely laid down general guidelines and left it to the private employer (and, if necessary, the courts) to judge whether a departure from the law is permissible. The Commission is considering whether to lay down a line of conduct for the Community as a whole.

A review of national protective legislation has shown that in no case is any ban or difference in working conditions, introduced to protect women, the same in all nine member states. This means that it is impossible to identify common and permanent requirements which could be stated objectively. In Italy and Germany, legislation protecting women during pregnancy and childbirth is extended to the care of children, something that is in conflict with the principle of equality between the mother and the father.

National laws state that any clauses in collective labour agreements that infringe the principle of equality are void. In practice, however, trade classifications reinforce segregation in employment. The two sides of industry could play a major role in drawing up joint equality plans for individual concerns or specific sectors of the economy.

Towards a European Equal Opportunities Committee

At the Manchester conference in May 1980, arranged by the European Commission in liaison with the Equal Opportunities Commission, there was a call for a European equal opportunities committee.

The first step in this direction was taken at the end of December, when the European Commission invited representatives of national bodies concerned with promoting equal opportunities for men and women in the world of work.

At the meeting of the representatives in Brussels, it was mooted that the main tasks for a future committee should be to act as a link between national bodies and the Commission and to provide a European-level liaison for ventures in individual countries. The committee could also make suggestions of practical action to the European Commission.

The committee could assist the Commission in implementing EEC legislation on equal opportunities, and it might be consulted on the supporting measures that should be adopted to improve the lot of women at work.

As is already the case with some similar bodies, the committee would be independent but would be located in the Commission offices, with the latter providing secretarial services.

Education and training: facts and figures

The European Community Statistical Office has published - in its Eurostat collection - figures on education and training for 1970/71 to 1977/78.

The comments on extra-scholastic training financed out of public funds are of special interest. In the case of women, the proportion (in 1977) is markedly lower in practically every type of education by comparison with the number of girls in schools and universities (the proportion of girl university students within the Community was 48.2%). The only exceptions of note are job retraining courses in Luxembourg and Denmark and initial vocational training other than apprenticeship in the Netherlands, where the proportion of girls is greater than in the schools.

The percentage of girl apprentices by comparison with total numbers is 17% in the Netherlands, 22% in France and 36% in Germany. In adult vocational training, girls account for about 20% of trainees in Belgium, Denmark and Luxembourg, 26% in Germany, 33% in France and 40% in the Netherlands (the country in which the lowest proportion of girls in school education is to be found). Except in the Netherlands, there is a higher proportion of women in "follow-up retraining" than in adult vocational training as a whole.

"General extra-scholastic training", on the other hand, caters for a majority of women in most countries.

Useful address: Office for Official Publications of the European
Communities
Boîte postale 1003
Luxembourg

RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND BOOKS

L'Europe des Poètes is a multilingual anthology compiled by Elizabeth S. de Zagon. Over 300 poems on Europe either sing her praises or bemoan her fate. A veritable mine of quotations, from the French Victor Hugo to the Polish Czeslaw Milosz, the book cites the Portuguese poet, Adolfo Casais Monteiro: "Europe, oh world to be created!". Distributor: Garnier (19 Rue des Plantes, 75014 Paris); publisher: Seghers et Le cherche-midi.

Le altre (the others), by Rossana Rossanda, is based on the original content of a broadcast by the author on the theme of "Women and Politics". The work considers the questions that listeners ask, and ask themselves, and the answers given by a political militant. Published by Bompiani.

Women's access to public responsibility was, for the sixth time running, the subject of a conference organized by the World Federation of Twinned Towns in May 1979. The proceedings, together with the interesting introductory papers, have just been published. FMVJ, 2 Rue de Logelbach, 75017 Paris.

Ervaringen van Vrouwelijke Juristen (experiences of women jurists), by Ben Sloot, is a rather unusual little book which evokes the relationship between women and the law from different standpoints, quoting case histories. As the story unfolds, fascinating questions arise as to the relationship between the law, justice and equity. Ben Sloot is the Scientific Attaché at the Instituut voor Rechtssociologie (Institute of Legal Sociology) in the University of Nijmegen (Netherlands). Regrettably, the book gives no address.

Pioneers for Peace by Gertrude Bussey and Margaret Tims, is published to mark the 65th anniversary of the Women's International League for Peace. This organization, founded in 1915 and now recognized by UNO, is indisputably the only one to have fought for peace throughout two world wars. A history worth bearing in mind as an unpredictable new year dawns. £3.50 from W.I.L.F.P., 29 Great James Street, London WC1N 3ES.

The place of energy in your life was the title of a symposium organized by the Women's Committee of the French European Movement in May 1980. The proceedings, with interesting statistical appendices, have now been published and can be obtained from Mouvement Européen, 191 Boulevard Saint-Germain, 75007 Paris.

Ich erziehe allein (bringing up alone) is a practical guide for single parents. Sophie Behr, president of the Verband Alleinsrehender Väter und Mütter (single mothers' and fathers' association). and Helga Häsing have written a down-to-earth and common-sense book, published by Rowohlt, Hamburg (ref. TB7373).

Guide to Women's Voluntary Organizations is published by the Northern Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission. It provides a comprehensive list of organizations and their branches in the province, describing the aims and work of each organization and giving the names and address to contact. Available from the N.I. Equal Opportunities Commission, Lindsay House, Callender Street, Belfast BT1 5DT, Northern Ireland.

The living and working conditions of women on French farms, by Martine Berlan and Rose Marie Painvin, is the French contribution to an intercultural comparative survey on the lot of rural women in Austria, France, Hungary, Poland, West Germany and Sweden, under the auspices of the European Coordination Centre for Research and Documentation in Social Science (Vienna). The French study is published in both French and English at Fr.60 (112 pages, plus tables and annexes). It can be ordered from the Centre régional de recherches de sociologie et d'économie rurales, 65 Rue de Saint-Brieux, 35042 Rennes Cedex.

EUROPEAN WOMEN IN PAID EMPLOYMENT - How they see discrimination at work has been issued as a Supplement to "Women of Europe" (no. 5) in the form of a detailed summary. This survey was conducted by the European Commission at the request of the European Parliament ad hoc committee on women's rights. The report, or at least its conclusions, was described in "Women of Europe" no. 17/80.

The Supplements to "Women of Europe" up to this time have been on the subjects of:

The European Social Fund and Women
The European Community and women's employment
European women and men in 1978
Women in European Parliament

Women, the international division of labour and development was the theme of a round-table discussion organized by Andrée Michel, Hélène Agbessi-Dos Santos and Agnès Diarra. The participants worked out research programmes which they suggested to women research workers (sociologists, economists, ethnologists, historians, etc.) in their own universities and research centres. Contact Andrée Michel, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (Groupe d'étude des rôles des sexes, de la famille et du développement humain), 82 Rue Cardinet, 75017 Paris.

Prima le donne e i bambini (women and children first!) by Elena Gianini Belotti lays emphasis on the total hypocrisy of the male who, while paying lip-service to the theory of feminine weakness, uses it as means of keeping women in subjection. Under such conditions, however, the power relationship destroys confidence, blocks communication and makes friendship impossible. An amazing book: an angry cry that calls for silent reflection. Lit.6,000, published by Rizzoli, Milan.

Debout les femmes - "women stand up" - is the striking title that Odette Thibault gives her book, written with her dual perspective of woman and biologist. She debunks accepted ideas in the name of "all those yet silent". She appeals to both men and women to build a "civilization of life and tenderness". Published by Chronique Sociale (7 Rue du Plat, 69288 Lyons Cedex 1), in its "l'Essentiel" collection.

Le donne e i loro padroni (women and their masters) is a report on the findings of a political survey conducted by Maria Antonietta Macciocchi, a member of European Parliament. Certainly we have gone a long way towards rescuing women from the ghetto, but the book also shows up the risks currently being incurred by the women's movement: becoming too inward-looking. The reason might lie in in-fighting, as in all social movements, but predominantly in the fact that the establishment has taken up the women's cause now that the movement has come so near to victory. Lit.7,500, published by Mondadori, Milan. The report has also appeared in French with the title of "Les femmes et leurs maîtres".

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